

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 16, 2022  
10:00 A.M.**

**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3096 SD1  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 3096 SD1, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center. The Department supports the intent of this measure and otherwise defers to the Department of Education.

Agricultural education is the cornerstone for ensuring a robust future agricultural workforce. The proposed agriculture innovation center will provide students a thriving hub to expand into and capitalize on the promising opportunities in finance, STEM research, aquaculture and the value-added products market.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 03/16/2022

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Location:** 325 Via Videoconference

**Committee:** House Agriculture

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** SB 3096, SD1 MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER.

**Purpose of Bill:** Provides an emergency appropriation for the Department of Education to build an agriculture innovation center. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 3096, SD1, an Administration bill, and appreciates the appropriation for the agriculture innovation center.

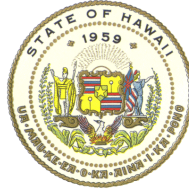
The Department supports the advancement of new agricultural technologies to increase agriculture production and advance educational and career opportunities for Hawaii's youth.

This measure builds on Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2015, that created a farm-to-school program and Act 175, SLH 2021, that set a goal of at least thirty percent of food served in public schools be locally sourced by 2030. The Department recognizes the importance of having agricultural programs available to students to promote the consumption of local food and healthy eating habits. Additionally, it is important to teach students about agriculture and potential career paths in the industry. As such, facilities are needed to meet this need.

The proposed facility has the potential to provide agricultural opportunities for students on Kauai, statewide, nationally, and internationally. Beyond growing food, students may be taught the development of value-added products, finance, soil research, and

aquaculture, among other opportunities. One desired outcome is for the center to become a thriving hub for curriculum and career opportunities for numerous Hawaii youth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION  
COMMISSION  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809**

**Testimony of  
Leah Laramee  
Coordinator, Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission  
(Temporality Assigned)**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
10:00 AM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In support of  
Senate Bill 3096, Senate Draft 2  
RELATING TO ZERO EMISSION TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Bill 3096 Senate Draft 2 makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Education for an agriculture innovation center. **The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission “recognizes the urgency of climate threats and the need to act quickly. It promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsible strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient.” The Commission, established by Act 32 SLH 2017 to uphold the United States’ pledges under the Paris Agreement, is the coordinating body for policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the state. It is a high-level multi-jurisdictional body that guides the priorities of the state’s climate response. Co-chaired by DLNR and Office of Planning, it consists of 20 members—chairs of four legislative committees, and executive department heads at the county and state levels.

Increasing the amount of food that is produced and consumed locally is a vital part of moving toward a climate ready Hawaii. The Commission recognizes the important role that education plays in perpetuating local food production. In its March 2021 working paper, Nature-Based Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Hawai‘i, the Commission notes that locally produced agriculture is a vital part of our economy and emphasizes it’s importance in achieving our net-negative carbon economy. Creating an agriculture innovation center on Kauai will enable students to pursue viable careers in agriculture and would promote the growth and consumption of locally grown foods.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this measure.

**Co-Chairs:**  
Chair, DLNR  
Director, OPSD

**Commissioners:**  
Chair, Senate AEN  
Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
Chairperson, HTA  
Chairperson, DOA  
CEO, OHA  
Chairperson, DHHL  
Director, DBEDT  
Director, DOT  
Director, DOH  
Chairperson, DOE  
Director, C+C DPP  
Director, Maui DP  
Director, Hawai‘i DP  
Director, Kaua‘i DP  
The Adjutant General  
Manager, CZM



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB3096 SD1  
Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for an Agriculture  
Innovation Center

House Committee on Agriculture

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Videoconference

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of SB3096 SD1, which provides an emergency appropriation for the Department of Education to build an agriculture innovation center.

Sustainable agriculture is a vital part of Hawaii's future. This agriculture innovation center will give students the opportunity to explore STEM careers in agriculture and create a resilient workforce and economy. The center will also support locally grown food production and strengthen the state's commitment to the Farm to School program and local agriculture. HCIA supports this measure to build the agriculture innovation center in Hawaii to conduct and oversee a coordinated agricultural program.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB3096 SD1. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*



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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 16, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3096, SD1**  
MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTER

Room 325 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3096, SD1**, which provides an emergency appropriation for the department of education to build an agriculture innovation center.

HFB recognizes the need and importance of agricultural education and school farm programs, and as a farm organization, we would like to see an increased emphasis on agriculture in schools. We believe that agriculture education programs serve multiple purposes. They serve not only to educate students on how to grow crops but also what it takes to turn a farm into a successful business enterprise that can be a career choice. Agronomy, economics, science, business planning, entomology, pathology, and various technologies including programming, navigation, and robotics are some of the courses that can evolve around the farm. Programs that teach the principles behind good agricultural practices - steps that must be taken that protect the environment, product, and worker are critical components of a school farm. A goal of any Ag Education Program should be to educate and expose students to a career choice.

Developing and maintaining an agricultural workforce should be a vital component of Ag Education programs. A trained workforce with various skills is necessary to any agricultural operation. This need has to be addressed along with generating interest in our youth to pursue various careers and to become our future leaders in Hawai'i agriculture. HFB supports programs and initiatives such as the FFA, 4-H, Farm to School, Aina Pono, and School Garden programs because they help to educate and reconnect

our children with agriculture. Through agricultural education programs, our children will gain an understanding and appreciation for agriculture which will result in healthier eating habits, stronger support for Hawai'i's agriculture industry, and will contribute to Hawai'i's food security. An agriculture innovation center would help facilitate this. A new agriculture innovation center on Kauai should be viewed as an investment in Hawai'i's future to develop well-informed consumers and supporters of our local agricultural industries and can be a model for other centers across the state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**SB-3096-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:39:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Felicia Cowden  
Bill DeCosta  
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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 14, 2021

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK**  
**COUNCIL VICE CHAIR, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**ON**

**SB 3096, SD1, MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR AN AGRICULTURE INNOVATION**  
**CENTER**

House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, March 16, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
Conference Room 325

Dear Chair Hashem and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of SB 3096 SD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Education for an Agriculture Innovation Center. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as Council Vice Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

SB 3096, SD1, will support and advance agricultural opportunities especially for students on Kaua'i, while increasing the production of local food and promoting healthy eating habits. The proposed state-of-the-art facility has the potential to also provide agricultural opportunities statewide, nationally, and internationally, and become a thriving hub for science, technology, engineering, and math curriculum, as well as provide career opportunities for all of Hawai'i's youth. SB 3096, SD1, is an important in the future of our children.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via E-mail to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Council Vice Chair, Kaua'i County Council

AMK:mn

**SB-3096-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 7:40:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahina Anguay	Waimea HS, HIDOE, Waimea High School Kekaha Elementary Eleele Elementary Kalaheo Elementary Koloa El	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify via Zoom and by submitting written testimony.

**SB-3096-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 3:21:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/16/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB3096.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn  
Kihei, Maui